

MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal: Aria PC Timber Sale, App. No. 76491, and Forest Practice Application No. 2807159. Uneven-aged harvest of 2,419 MBF of timber from 272.40 acres. Proposal includes 4,000 feet of road construction, 1,250 feet of road reconstruction, and 5,150 feet of road abandonment. Rock is available from sources on State land.

Description of mitigation: See attached sheet.

Proponent: Department of Natural Resources.

Location of proposal, including street address, if any: Sections 25 and 36, Township 33 North, Range 7 East, W.M. Proposal is located 16.5 miles east of Arlington, in Skagit County, off of Highway 530 and the HM-ML forest road.

Lead agency: Department of Natural Resources.

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

☐ There is no comment period for this Mitigated DNS.

☒ This MDNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from September 9, 2004. Comments must be submitted by September 23, 2004.

Responsible official: William J. Wallace

Position/title: Region Manager **Phone:** 360-856-3500

Address: 919 North Township Street, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Date: _____ **Signature:** _____

There is no agency SEPA appeal.

11/09/00

MITIGATED MEASURES

Aria PC Timber Sale, App. No. 76491

Streams:

- 1 type 3 stream with a 150-foot, no-harvest buffer, on one side of the stream.
- 2 type 4 streams with a 100-foot, no-harvest buffer, on one side of each stream.
- 9 type 5 streams with a 0-80-foot (50 to 80 feet on average), no-harvest buffer, on portions of the streams.

Wetland:

- 1 type B wetland with a 150-foot, no-harvest buffer.

Unstable Slopes:

- A shallow rapid failure in a type 5 stream channel was bounded out of proposal.

Roads:

- Roads and designated skid trails will be constructed during the dry times of the year. Designated skid trail on an abandoned truck grade will have drainage structures installed during operations. Exposed soils on cut and fill slopes will be grass seeded to lessen sediment impact to streams. 5,150 feet of road will be abandoned after completion of use. Pioneering will be limited to within 500 feet of completed construction. Roads were located to minimize ground-based yarding distances to an average of 400 feet or less.

Green tree retention and wildlife:

- The proposal area does not currently meet minimum spotted owl NRF habitat conditions, in accordance with the HCP prescription (section IV) for WAUs that contain less than 50% NRF habitat. Management can take place in these stands per the HCP, as long as the activity does not increase the timeframe to which habitat would be attained if left unmanaged. This proposal will be a diameter restricted removal harvest. The harvest will be a “thinning from below” which means a harvest removal of trees predominantly in the smaller diameter ranges, leaving the largest diameter trees within the proposal area, with the goal of creating sub-mature or better habitat conditions more quickly than if the site were left untreated. This is consistent with the HCP. Openings created by the thinning, that are greater than 1/10 acre in size, will be planted with shade tolerant western redcedar in addition to Douglas-fir seedling.

Logging methods:

- Proposal will be yarded by cable and ground-based systems. Leading end of logs will be suspended during yarding. Ground based yarding will be limited to the dry time of the year and limited to slopes less than 25%. Skid trails will be located to minimize the impacts of harvest activities.